

How to get help with your outdoor plans

NOAA's National Weather Service provides the public with forecasts, outlooks, watches and warnings, 24 hours a day every day of the year.

To find your local forecast or the forecast for your destination

go to

www.weather.gov

Did you Know?

- Lightning is one of nature's deadliest killers.
- Flash Flooding may occur many miles downstream from thunderstorms.
- Nearly 10 tornadoes a year occur in the Ozarks on average.
- Straight line wind can be as destructive as a tornado, especially on lakes and camp grounds.
- Most forest and grass fires are caused by negligence.

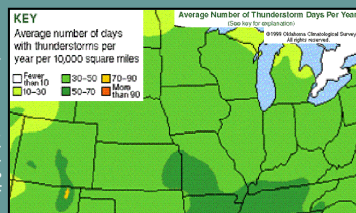


How often does it happen?

Lightning

In the United States, there are an estimated 25 million lightning strikes each year. During the past 30 years, lightning killed an average of 67 people per year in the United States.

This is more than are killed by tornadoes and hurricanes each year.



Average number of days with a thunderstorm

Flooding

More than half of all flash flood deaths occur when cars are swept away trying to cross flooded roadways or low water bridges. Water that is two feet deep will carry away most automobiles. Never attempt to drive through a flooded roadway. The road bed may be washed out beneath the water, and you could be stranded or trapped. If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.

Camping on gravel bars can be dangerous as well when flash flooding occurs. When camping on a gravel bar, have a route to higher ground in the event of a flash flood.

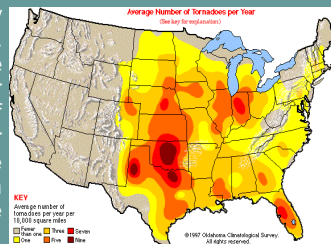


Severe Weather

Severe weather, including tornadoes, hail, high winds and flooding have occurred in every state during almost every month of the year. Some areas are more prone to severe weather though. The center of the country has a higher probability of severe weather occurring than most of the rest of the U.S.

The best advice if you are in a vehicle:

TURN AROUND... Don't DROWN



Before You Go

National Weather Service

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES

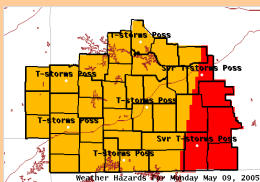


Numerous products and services are available to the public that can help you plan your outdoor activities.

Get the latest **Forecast** online for the area you will be enjoying in an easy to see format. Forecasts of wind, temperature and precipitation are available.

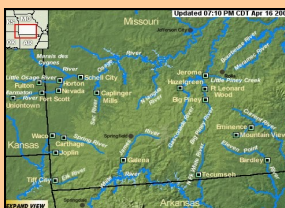
<http://weather.gov/sgf/>

The **Hazardous Weather Outlook** can be an invaluable tool in planning your outdoor activities. Forecasts are available a week in advance to help you make your plans.



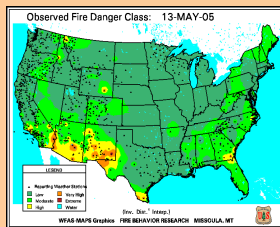
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/HWO/HWO_Graphics.shtml

Information on the condition of local rivers, lakes and waterways is available from National Weather Service River Forecast Centers located across the country.

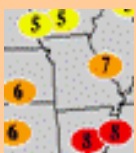


www.crh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ahps.cgi?sgf

In addition to weather and water conditions, the latest fire danger information can be obtained through the National Weather Service or from the local Forest Service office.



<http://fire.boi.noaa.gov/firewx.htm>



The latest Ultraviolet index, updated each day, is also available for your protection.

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/stratosphere/uv_index/uv_current.html

Once You're There

National & State Park Officials



National and State Parks maintain park or camp ground offices where information concerning current lake, river or stream conditions, severe weather and fire danger information are available. In addition, information that can save your life can be obtained from the Park offices and official's including:



- Location of storm shelters
- Normal Fire, Flood and Severe Weather seasons
- Camping, Boating and Outdoor safety information

What does it mean?

NOAA's National Weather Service uses a three tier approach to alert the public for the potential for severe weather. This consists of **outlooks, watches and warnings**.

A **Hazardous Weather Outlook** is issued to alert people when conditions are favorable for severe weather, flash flooding or dangerous wildfires to develop within the next few days.

A **Severe Weather Watch** is issued when conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms or tornadoes to develop. A watch is usually issued for large areas, involving many counties. It heightens your awareness of the possibility of severe weather. If you are in the area covered by a watch, continue with your normal activities, but make a plan where you would go for shelter if severe weather were to strike suddenly.

A **Flood Watch** means that flash flooding is possible in the watch area. You should remain alert and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

A **Fire Weather Watch** is issued to provide advance notification when a combination of weather conditions and critical fuel conditions are expected over a specific area which can lead to dangerous wildfires.

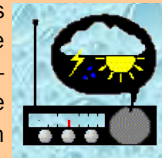
A **Severe Weather Warning** is an urgent message to tell you that severe weather is imminent or occurring. Warnings are usually for small areas, such as part of a county or counties. A **Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Warning** is usually in effect for 30 minutes to one hour.

A **Flash Flood Warning** means that flash flooding has been reported, or is imminent. When a flash flood warning is issued for your area, act quickly to save yourself. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Go to higher ground, or climb to safety.

A **Red Flag Warning** is a weather warning for extreme fire weather conditions. These warnings are issued when specific weather conditions, coupled with critically dry fuels, are imminent or occurring and can produce large and dangerous wildfires.

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

A NOAA Weather Radio can help protect you while enjoying the outdoors. Most locations across the country are covered by one or more NOAA Weather Radio transmitters. The National Weather Service broadcasts forecast, outlook, watch and warning information 24 hours a day. Find your county and tune in the NWR broadcast.



Transmitter	Frequency	Counties Covered
GAINESVILLE	162.425 MHz	Douglas, Ozark, Taney
AVILLA (JOPLIN)	162.425 MHz	Barry, Barton, Cedar, Cherokee, Crawford, Dade, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Stone
FORDLAND (SPRINGFIELD)	162.400 MHz	Christian, Dade, Dallas, Douglas, Greene, Laclede, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, Webster, Wright
SUMMERVILLE	162.475 MHz	Dent, Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Shannon, Texas
WEST PLAINS	162.525 MHz	Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozark
ALTON	162.500 MHz	Howell, Oregon, Shannon
ELDORADO SPRINGS	162.475 MHz	Bates, Barton, Benton, Bourbon, Cedar, Dade, Hickory, Polk, St. Clair, Vernon
HERMITAGE	162.450 MHz	Dallas, Hickory, Polk
OSAGE BEACH	162.550 MHz	Benton, Camden, Dallas, Hickory, Laclede, Maries, Miller, Morgan, Pulaski, Osage, Cole, Moniteau
DONIPHAN	162.450 MHz	Butler, Carter, Reynolds, Ripley, Wayne, Shannon, Oregon
PIEDMONT	162.425 MHz	Butler, Carter, Reynolds, Ripley, Wayne, Shannon, Oregon
BRANSON	162.550 MHz	Christian, Stone, Taney
CASSVILLE	162.525 MHz	Barry, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton
DIXON	162.425 MHz	Dent, Laclede, Maries, Miller, Phelps, Pulaski, Texas

For more information on NWR transmitters in your location go to: http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=nwr_index